

October 2016

Message from Mrs Aldous

Dear families,



Welcome to the new look 'Westwood News'! We aim to send this out on a monthly basis to share some of the fantastic learning and other events going on in school. It will also include all the important dates as well as news from each class.

We have had a great start to the new school year and all the children have settled in well to their new classes. The school is buzzing with learning every second of the day.

It has been lovely to see so many of you at the class events that have already taken place. It makes such a difference to your child when they see you actively engaging with school so we look forward to seeing you as much as possible this year.

We have an open door policy at the school and parents/carers are welcome to come in to speak to members of staff without an appointment. Generally, it is less busy at the end of the school day, so this is a good time to catch the teacher. If you are unable to come into school, please telephone or email and we will respond as soon as possible.

Please also look out for flyers and letters handed out at the end of the school day which also include important dates and information about events.

The website and our facebook page also contain lots of current information about life at the school.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Mrs Rae Aldous
(Headteacher)

Tokens mean free school trips!!

Reading at Home

Please, please, please listen to or encourage your child to read at home!

Children who read at home regularly make better progress in reading and writing at school.

Our school information shows that the children who read at home are making better progress than those who do not. Don't let your child fall behind.



Every time your child reads at home and you record it in the Reading Record they will receive a token. Tokens mean free school trips!

Thank you.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the Harvest festival at St. Mark's Church, Oulton Broad. Once again we were lucky with the weather walking to and from the church and we thank parents who assisted.

The singing was some of the best that we have had at Westwood and it was lovely to see our wonderful children standing bravely and proudly at the front of the church singing and dancing their hearts out.

Well done to our Year 6 children who compared the Festival and to those Year 6 children who composed and read such beautiful poems.

Thanks again for your donations and thank you to St. Mark's for hosting us.



Attendance

Attendance this year has been much improved. The attendance figure for 2015/2016 is 95.4%. The national expectation is 96%.

Thank you so much for supporting your child and our school. However, please do not give up.

**EVERY
SCHOOL DAY
COUNTS**

Each week we publish the amount of lost learning hours and display it in the front office. Some weeks the number of lost learning hours is shockingly high! That means that some of our children are missing out on learning which is seriously affecting their progress and attainment. As we know, some children are missing big chunks of learning and may never catch up!

The other serious issue for our school is punctuality. A small number of children are late every day or a few times a week. Again this means that the children are missing out. For example, in some classes children are taught to read from 8.45am and if your child is late, they are missing their reading session. If they are late everyday, they are missing their reading session everyday.

We are rewarding good attendance and good punctuality in various ways including a forthcoming Assembly for parents to attend as well as Class Breakfast with the teachers! Year 6 and Year 3 have enjoyed breakfast so far!

We need your support! Attendance and Punctuality figures can count against the school and we do not want to be judged as a poor school because we have children arriving late for school.

Parental Involvement

Parental involvement in learning is essential. We will be holding lots of events in school and sending activities home for you to enjoy with your child. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Look out for the flyers coming home from school outlining the date of the events.

We have an 'open door policy' here at Westwood and welcome parents to come into school to discuss any concerns, share information and celebrate your child's success on a daily basis. Teachers are available at the beginning and end of the school day to talk with parents and carers; generally the end of the school day is better. The headteacher is also available on a day to day basis, without the need to make an appointment.

If you are unable to come into school to speak with members of staff, please telephone and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Alternatively email admin@westwoodprimary.org or head@westwoodprimary.org

If you think you may be able to offer support to the school by hearing children read, please contact Mrs Barnes via the school office. We already have a few parents who hear children read on a regular basis but would love to have more.



Pupil and Parent Support Advisor.

Mrs Dawn Williams is our Pupil and Parent Support Advisor and is available to speak to parents, carers and families on a daily basis. She is very experienced and can provide advice on a range of different parent and family matters. If you need any help, advice or just a listening ear, please contact her through the school office.



WEBSITE

Please keep an eye on the school website.

The address is:

www.westwoodprimary.org

You can also follow us:

Twitter : @Westwood School

Facebook : Westwood Primary School



Arriving at School

The school doors are unlocked at 8.30am. From this time you may bring or send your child into their classroom. Teachers will be waiting for the children in the classroom from 8.30am where learning activities will be take place. (8.45am for Nursery and Reception children)

Please do not hesitate to come into the classroom to speak to your child's teacher at the beginning or end of the school day.

We have a breakfast club available from 8.00am every morning at a cost of £1.50 per day.

SCHOOL PLACES

We have places available in Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 and have a waiting list for children for our Nursery who are not quite old enough at present. Please spread the word to friends, family and neighbours.

CONTACT DETAILS

Please ensure we have your up to date contact details. This includes current address and telephone numbers. We often contact parents by text.



PE Kit

Please ensure your child has, in school every day, the following PE kit:

- Black shorts
- White T Shirt
- Trainers
- Sweatshirt/Jogging Bottoms (optional)

Please ensure all items are named.



LOST PROPERTY

Please ensure you have labelled your child's school uniform. It is much easier to find the owners and return items quickly if they are labelled. At times we have an extensive range of lost property which we cannot keep for more than a term.



School Uniform

We have a strict School Uniform Policy. Please ensure your child is dressed in the following named school uniform:



Boys

- * Black tailored trousers or shorts (no jogging bottoms etc.)
- * White polo shirt
- * Westwood Primary School Sweatshirt with logo
- * grey/black/navy socks
- * Black shoes (No trainers)
- * School Book Bag

Girls

- * Black tailored dress, skirt or trousers
- * Purple checked summer dress
- * White polo shirt
- * Westwood Primary School Sweatshirt
- * Westwood Primary School Cardigan
- * grey/black tights or white socks
- * Black shoes (No trainers or boots)
- * School Book Bag

- For further information about school uniform requirements please contact the school office.
- Sweatshirts/Cardigans/Book Bags/PE Bags/Water Bottles are available from the school office.
- School uniform bursaries will be given at the discretion of the Headteacher

WESTWOOD NEWS

October 2016

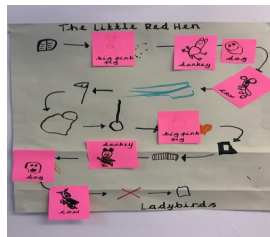
Nursery

Nursery have had a fantastic start to the new school year. Both morning and afternoon children are very well settled and are enjoying making the most of the learning environment. Nursery children particularly enjoy the weekly visits to the Library where they can change their home books and enjoy a story.



Reception

Reception have settled well into their new class. They have been busy learning the story of 'The Little Red Hen' which they retold at family cafe to their parents. Reception have now innovated the story in their key groups, creating their own versions including 'The Big Pink Pig' and 'The Little Blue Sheep'.



Year 1

As part of our DT unit Seth Sloth has asked us to design and prepare him a delicious fruit salad! We have learnt about the importance of being healthy and have investigated our sense of taste to help with this learning challenge.

We firstly had to taste a range of different fruits and juices. After that we had to decide which fruits and juice to include in our fruit salad. Then we had to carefully chop our fruits and place them into a bowl with our juice and gave it a big stir. Finally we got to taste our fruit salad before serving it to Seth!

Year 2

We have had fun learning all about Changing Materials this half term. We have investigated how absorbent different materials are in order to clean up accidents made by Mrs Hurren's naughty puppy! We have melted chocolate to find out whether it changes back to solid squares when cooled down. We also conducted surveys with the title 'How Do You Like Your Toast?' and found out that jam is a very popular spread!

Year 3 & 4

During the first term back at school, Year 3 and 4 have been competing in The Great Bread Bake off. So far we have carried out product analysis (a yummy taste testing session), created a questionnaire, practised shaping salt dough into knots and plaits, written a recipe to follow and then finally made our bread rolls in the kitchen.

Ayva-Mai - "It was great fun making the bread. We all worked together as a team and I enjoyed weighing and mixing the ingredients."



WESTWOOD NEWS

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Year 5

Year 5 have been enjoying their Science lessons. They have been learning about healthy bodies and the benefits of exercise and healthy diets. Kathy Buller, a local fitness instructor came into class for the day to work with the children. They particularly enjoyed the fitness aerobic session.

"Kathy knows so much about how to be healthy. It was great to be able to ask her so many questions" Kelly (Year 5)



Year 6

Year 6 have been working incredibly hard this term! We have secured the 4 maths calculations and are feeling very proud of ourselves. In literacy we have written some amazing finding tales - some are on our class page of the website. On Mondays we have been learning French with Mrs Barnes and E-safety with Miss Creed.

During our topic lessons, we have been set a challenge by the dragons den to do a new lighting system for Miss Brinded's office using our knowledge of electricity. Thank all parents who have supporting us with homework and daily reading.

School Council

School council have been discussing and sharing their classes views on what they like at Westwood and what we could improve. They will be using the peers views to create a Pupil Development Plan which will outline the targets we hope to achieve by the end of the year to further improve the school. They have recently organised and held their first fundraising event of the year. They raised an impressive £151 for Macmillan through their very successful cake sale!

Sports News

The Year 6 children who were chosen to take part in a Hockey Quicksticks Tournament at East Point Academy, really enjoyed themselves as did the Year 3 children who were chosen to take part in a Matball Tournament, again at East Point Academy. Both classes showed real team spirit and great enthusiasm..

After half term we shall be starting an after school Dance Club and Football Club for KS2.

A Multi-Skills club on a Tuesday morning for KS1 will be continuing. After half term.

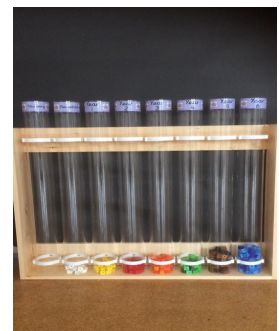
Junior Road Safety

Here is a picture of the Junior Road Safety Officers collecting their certificates for being the new representatives, from Mrs Aldous. They will be starting to promote road safety within the school after the October half term.



Reading Challenge Leader Board

- 1. Year 6
- 2. Year 5
- 3. Year 4



Diary Dates

There will be more events taking place and we will let you know as soon in advance as possible.

21st October 2016	SCHOOL CLOSED—Teacher Training
24th October—28th October	HALF TERM
2nd November	Parent Interview
3rd November	Parent Interview
4th November	Year 3 and 4 Mini Tennis Tournament—Saint Felix
4th November	Special Bonfire Lunch (Hotdogs, Chips, Beans, Chocolate Crunch and Chocolate Custard)
7th November	Anti-Bullying Day
16th November	Year 5 trip to Marina Theatre
18th November	Year 6 Crucial Crew
22nd November	Year 5 and 6 Able Maths Day—Carlton Colville
29th November	Years 1, 2 and 3 Flu Vaccinations
8th December	Christmas Fair 2.30pm
13th December	Nursery AM, Reception, Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 to Marina Theatre — Beauty and the Beast
15th December	2pm—Year 1, Year 2, Reception Christmas concert 6pm—Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Concert
16th December	9.30am—Year 1, Year 2, Reception Christmas concert 2pm—Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Concert
16th December	Christmas Jumper Day
19th December	Christmas Dinner Day Christmas Disco in school
20th December	LAST DAY OF TERM

